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Dhow Building

Dhows are built at Maala by a number of Hadhrami merchants settled in Aden. They turn out about seven vessels a year, the average carrying capacity of which is about 200 tons. The dhows are constructed of Indian teak from the Malabar coast and are well built and fast. They sail to India (Bombay and the Malabar coast) and to the East African coast as well as to neighbouring Arabian ports, and take a large share in local trade, in spite of the competition of the coasting steamers of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Brothers and of Monsieur A. Besse (Halal Shipping Company). Monsieur Besse now maintains a fleet of dhows in addition to his motor vessels. Many of these dhows are equipped with auxiliary engines

Soap Manufacturing

A soap manufacturing industry started by Monsieur Besse in December, 1932, at Maala is progressing satisfactorily. The soap is manufactured by boiling coconut oil and cold processes. Local labour of 40 men is employed, and the output is about 50 cases daily, each case containing 200 cakes, which are disposed of locally or exported to the Red Sea Ports.

Dyeing

There are three factories which do business in dyeing cloth and each employs on an average about 60 persons daily. There are in addition about 18 dyers who do business on a small scale. The dyed goods are mainly exported to Mombasa, Mogadiscio, Massowa, Hodeidah, and the interior of Arabia.

Cigarette Making

The cigarette industry is conducted on a fairly large scale by Jews and Greeks with tobacco imported from Egypt.

VII.—COMMERCE

Customs

Aden being a free port, there are no customs duties.

Trade

The trade of Aden is mainly transhipment as the port is a centre for trade between all ports of the world and the neighbouring territories. The principal business is in skins, hides, coffee, cotton piece goods, grain and pulse, sugar, spices, oils, tobacco, gums, shells and salt. The total value of the seaborne trade in the year under report (12 months January to December, 1938) exclusive of transhipment cargo, was Rs. 12,16,02,803 (imports Rs. 8,02,17,766, and exports Rs. 4,13,84,437), showing a decrease of Rs. 42,51,828 as compared

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden M M)

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans acres in extent. The export in 1947 amounted to 320,770 tons.

This industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian, now under the management of the Custodian of Enemy Property, the other three Indian. The year 1947 showed a considerable improvement in business as compared with the previous two years. This was due to improved shipping which enabled more salt to be marketed in India. The tonnage produced during the last five years is given below:

Year	*Quantity of salt produced in tons*
1943	199,236
1944	205,308
1945	139,945
1946	113,042
1947	194,549

FISHERIES

The present primitive fishing industry employs numerous canoes and a few small dhows propelled by oars and sails. Nets are small as only hand-braided netting is available, capital is limited and the life of the twine is short because no preservatives are used. Only single-hook lines are employed. No accurate estimate of the annual catch has been made, but Dr. Bertram in his 1944 report reckoned it at between 25,000 and 50,000 tons. Much of this is exported, in a dried or salted condition, to India, Africa and Ceylon, but there is a considerable local consumption inland. Most observers agree that this figure could be greatly exceeded without affecting the stock of fish. The technical difficulties in so doing are considerable but not insuperable. They include lack of harbours, lack of fresh water, the political situation and the distance to markets.

The most extensive fishery is for sardines of the general Sardinella and Dussumieria types which abound on the Eastern Aden Protectorate coast during the winter months. These are taken in cast-nets and beach seins and are sun-dried for fertiliser and camel fodder. The sardine shoals are followed by kingfish (*Scomberomorus*), which are caught in large quantities and exported, mostly wet-salted as "maloh". Various species of tunny are also caught. Sharks are exported salted and sun-dried, the carcases to Africa and the fins to China. The town of Qu'aiti specialises in this fishery and other communities pursue it seasonally. An anchovy (*Stolephorus indicus*) abounds on the Western Aden Protectorate coast in winter and is exported sun-dried in some quantity. Other

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AN ARAB DHOW AT MUKALLA

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6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MAI Aden M M1

The craft used are of two kinds, the sambuk, which is a planked surf-boat of up to 35 feet long, and the huri, a dugout canoe imported from India to which a topstrake is usually added locally. Huris range from 8 to 30 feet and are popular because they can withstand neglect and rough usage. No power-craft are yet used for fishing. During 1948 there were 34 sambuks and 341 huris in the Colony.

Nets are all hand-braided locally. There are several types which operate by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish which are then induced to gill themselves. Beach seins are also used and cast-nets are popular for small shooling fish. Handlines are used extensively but longlines are not known.

Although prices are generally higher for consumption fresh than for salting, lack of transport prevents fish from reaching the Colony's markets in any quantity from outside a few miles radius. In consequence, landings are spasmodic and prices fluctuate widely, to the detriment of both fisherman and consumer. There is no provision for dealing with temporary gluts except by salting for export. Salt fish is beyond the means of the poorer people, as loss of weight during curing increases its price.

In short, the Colony's fishing industry is not at present able to maintain a steady supply of fish for a community of 80,000 people. A Fishery Officer has, however, been appointed and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the position in years to come.

The island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea is part of the Crown Colony. The Perim fishing community comprises between 20 and 30 families, who salt and export their surplus fish to an annual value of between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000. The Perim pearl fisheries have not been let since 1946, when the lessee is reported to have lost money on the enterprise.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochus shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden M M

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THE FIRST STEP IN BUILDING A DHOW: LAYING THE KEEL

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8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 M341 Aden MM1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

258 There are four salt works, which are owned by private companies.
439 Export of salt to India has been discontinued as India is now producing almost all the salt it needs. Japan is still buying large quantities at competitive prices. The tonnage produced during the two years is as follows:

Year	*Tons*
1951 . .	304,302
1952 . .	376,079

FISHERIES

Fishing Areas and Methods

133 The Colony coast extends for approximately 16 sea miles in a straight line but is heavily indented with rocky bays and sandy beaches. Fish-
226 ing is almost totally coastal and shoals of small fish are caught in the shallow waters of the inner harbour. The only deep-sea fishing carried out is just inside the 100-fathom line on rocky heads in the otherwise sandy bottom at distances up to 16 miles from the coast. No inland fisheries exist because of the arid geography of the Colony.

226 Fishing methods are mostly ancient having been handed down
● 504 through generations of fishermen. Dugout canoes from 9 feet to 30 feet long and sewn or nailed planked surf boats (sambuks) up to 35 feet long are the principal fishing craft. The small canoes (houris) are fished by one man with handline for rock fish and trolling for migratory shoaling fish. The larger houris are used by a crew of three or four with cotton nets for shoals of a type of mackerel, and with handlines on the rocky coast. In addition, beach seines and rectangular bottom set nets are set by this type of craft. The surf boats are mostly used during the summer months with a crew of eleven using encircling gill nets, and during the months of March, April and May for deep-sea hand lining.

Principal methods used are hand lines, trolling lines, fine cotton gill nets, a form of encircling gill triangular net in cotton or heavy Indian twine, a rectangular bottom set net with leader, lift nets and various tangle and beach seine nets.

Organization

226 The fishing industry is split into net and line fishermen. The latter
926 are mostly self-supporting and generally take their own fish to market. The net fishermen are almost all completely indebted to substantial salt fish exporters who advance money to the captain (*nakhooda*) of